

as were other typical deciduous woodland flies such as *Ferdinandea cuprea* (Scopoli) and *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* (Fab.). A single *Rhagium mordax* (Degeer) (Col: Cerambycidae) was also seen on *Rubus* leaves.

Peter Chandler provided a list of 77 other flies including 22 mycetophilids; however he remarked that none were significant! Andrew Halstead provided a similar but multi-order list which included 29 sawfly species recorded as adults and the following four species from larval evidence: *Blennocampa pusilla* (Klug) leaf rolls on *Rosa* sp., *Phymatocera aterrima* (Klug) on solomon's seal *Polygonatum multiflorum* (L.), *Nematus pavidus* Lep., subsequently reared out from a larva in *Salix* sp., and similarly *N. lucidus* (Panzer) bred from a larva on hawthorn.

Finally, a good specimen of the stinkhorn fungus *Phallus impudicus* (L.) was seen growing appropriately, adjacent to the men's toilets in the car park!

The evening meeting appeared initially to be threatened by rain, as having kept off all day a shower commenced just as members started arriving. However, once we were in position behind the locked gates, it remained dry with only occasional glimpses of the moon. The MV, actinic and other traps employed by the three members and one non-member soon revealed some of the woodland speciality moths for which this wood was well known in the days when "A Survey of the Insects of The Forest of Bere" was produced by David Appleton, Richard Dickson and George Else, covering historic records on this site up to those recorded in the 1970s. In total, four of the beautiful scarce merveille du jour *Moma alpium* (Osborne) moths were taken at light. Other significant species of the at least forty-eight taken included the little thorn *Cephus adenaria* (Hübner), orange footman *Eilema sororcula* (Hufner) and the rosy marbled *Elaphria venustula* (Hübner). This last species, presumed to be a recent colonist, has occurred at this site since the 1970s.

I am indebted to John Phillips for providing me with his list of the moth species taken. It is regrettable to record that of the two other individuals running lights, no records of what they took were received by the leader. I hope this is not a trend that will disadvantage all leaders of field meetings in future when writing their reports for this journal. Thanks are also due to the authorities at the Forestry Commission at Alice Holt, Hampshire for giving permission for the meeting to take place.

New Forest, Hampshire, 22 August 1998

Leader: David Green.—The now traditional August field meeting in the New Forest was well attended, with members and guests coming from as far afield as Queensland, Western Australia. Although the primary objective of the meeting was to search for the two crimson underwing moths *Catocala sponsa* (L.) and *C. promissa* (D. & S.), the meeting was also supported by several dipterists and coleopterists. This was a joint meeting between the BENHS and Butterfly Conservation.

During the afternoon, the party explored one of the night's selected trapping areas at Whitley Wood (SU2905). It is encouraging to see how much dead timber has been left in this part of the Forest and particularly the number of standing dead trees. Several notable species of Coleoptera and Diptera were located although very few Lepidoptera were found during this part of the meeting, either as adults or as larvae. The only butterflies seen were a few speckled wood *Pararge aegeria* (L.), meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* (L.) and holly blue *Celastrina argiolus britanna* (Verity). Larvae included mottled beauty *Alcis repandata* (L.) beaten from oak *Quercus robur* L. and common wave *Cabera exanthemata* (Scopoli) from sallow *Salix caprea* L.

The most noteworthy discovery of the afternoon was a single female specimen of the crane fly *Ctenophora ornata* Meigen found by Elizabeth Trasenster and

determined by John Chainey and Alan Stubbs. The species (Fig. 1) is a large and spectacular hornet mimic and is classified UK RDB 1 (Endangered). According to Falk (1991) (Falk, S. 1991. *S. A Review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 1*. NCC, Peterborough), *C. ornata* has only been recorded from five post-1960 sites, three of them in the New Forest. There have subsequently been at least two additional New Forest records from the Brockenhurst area during the 1990s. Whitley Wood appears to be a new locality. The species is restricted to ancient broad-leaved woodland and has been reared from wet 'porridge' wood mould in a beech *Fagus sylvatica* L.. Old trees and stumps of particularly large girth are considered to be probably essential for this species. Adults have been recorded from June to August and have been taken at moth traps at night and in the vicinity of old, living oaks *Quercus* spp.

Further members and guests arrived for the evening part of the meeting. Some elected to work the well known areas around Whitley Wood whilst others chose relatively less well worked sites elsewhere. It proved possible to cover four widely spaced localities: Whitley Wood, Gritnam Wood (SU2806), Mark Ash Wood (SU2407) and Anses Wood (SU2212). Anses Wood, in particular, is in a hitherto very under-recorded part of the Forest.

As so often in 1998, weather conditions were not particularly favourable for night work with clear skies and rapidly falling temperatures. Two dark crimson underwing *Catocala sponsa* and two light crimson underwing *C. promissa* came to sugared tree trunks at Whitley Wood but none were located at any of the other trapping areas. Most members reported disappointingly low numbers of moths although the meeting did provide a useful opportunity to gather records which can be used in the compilation of the forthcoming New Forest Special Area for Conservation (SAC) Management Plan presently under preparation. All records have been forwarded to Forest Enterprise and to Barry Goater, the County moth recorder.

Forty-nine species of macro moth were recorded. Most were common species associated with deciduous woodland, although a trap situated on the very edge of



Figure 1. The crane fly *Ctenophora ornata*, photo. P. Waring.

Anses Wood additionally attracted a range of characteristic heathland species. The only moths of note other than the two underwings were a single vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* (L.) at Anses Wood and a mocha *Cyclophora annulata* (Schulze) at Whitley Wood. The vestal was of the strongly marked form with a bright pink stripe on the forewings. This may be an indication of local breeding.

Unexpected visitors to light traps in Anses Wood were three further specimens of *Ctenophora ornata*. These were all males and were determined by John Chainey. This is another area with an important resource of standing dead timber and this discovery results in a second new locality for this species.

I would express my gratitude to all those who supported this field meeting. I would particularly like to thank Paul Waring for invaluable advice and assistance on the day. I would also like to thank English Nature and the Forestry Commission for permission to hold this meeting. The Forestry Commission are keen to encourage as much recording of insect orders in the New Forest as possible. Permits for the collecting of Lepidoptera can be obtained from David Green at Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP and for the collecting of other orders from the Forestry Commission, Queen's House, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7AB.

Slapton Ley, Devon, 11 September 1999

Leader: **Roy McCormick**.—The weather looked quite promising as two members of Devon Moth Group and I started out for the meeting place at Slapton Ley Field Study Centre. As we approached the area it started to drizzle and by the time we had arrived at around 19.20 this was more persistent. Two other Members of DMG were already at the meeting place with a third arriving shortly afterwards; we decided to hold on until 19.45 in case anybody else turned up and discussed our options about what we were going to do. We moved on to the site where the lights were to be run and met a further person who had decided to brave the night.

The drizzle had now turned to rain, albeit not very heavy but dense; the type that gets you wet through in no time. I had seven traps on board belonging to myself and the people who travelled with me but because of the weather, it was decided to put out the first two that came to hand along with the first generator; lucky that most of our equipment is standard as we had traps from one member with the generator of another and a mixture of reels from two of us. The traps were put out and we looked like drowned rats by the time we had finished, but the generator was started and we were under way. The rain persisted but we did a couple of rounds of the two traps (they were a good distance apart) and we managed to record more moths than there were people. By around 22.00 the rain finally stopped and our tally had reached 27 species with the only thing of note being *Parapoynx stratiotata* (L.) (ringed china-mark) which had been recorded from Slapton before.

It was agreed that as the night was poor, we would start packing up around 23.00 but at around 22.30 a moth was spotted sitting on the outside of the nearest trap. This was quickly tubed and examined and at first thought was identified as *Idaea degeneraria* (Hüb) (portland ribbon wave). But in September and a mile or two from the type of habitat it is usually found at? The two who were waiting at the Field Study Centre when we arrived, decided that they had had enough so we said our good nights to them; they had had an enjoyable evening and seen moths they had not seen before. The tubed specimen was taken home by me and confirmed as *degeneraria*; it was a bit small but it matched the specimens I had in my cabinet; what